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Program Title: *Tsunami Emergency Small Grants Program for Sri Lanka*
Award Number: **386-G-00-05-00037-00**
Country/Region: Coastal districts in Sri Lanka
Type of Disaster/Hazard: Tsunami
Period of Activity: January – November, 2005
Number of Beneficiaries: 111,242 tsunami-impacted persons

Total Amount Granted from OFDA: \$ 1,509,447
Total Match Amount: \$ 300,073
Total Dollar Amount of Program: \$ 1,809,520
Report Type: **Fourth Quarter and Final**
Report Date: **December 23, 2005**

A. Program Summary

Our goal was to *provide immediate assistance to affected communities of the tsunami disaster to help them to rebuild lives and livelihoods*. Mercy Corps originally designed the project to focus on three objectives: household item distribution, emergency water and sanitation facilities, and income generation. As Sri Lanka progressed through varying stages of recovery, Mercy Corps worked closely with local partners to stay ahead of the curve by empowering communities to lead their own recovery.

From January 10th through November 30th, Mercy Corps implemented 82 projects, 37 direct and 45 through one of 35 local partners demonstrating appropriate skills and relevance. Over 100,000 people participated or indirectly benefited from Mercy Corps/OFDA tsunami recovery programming. In order to strengthen local emergency response capacity and support the psychosocial needs of tsunami survivors, Mercy Corps approached all projects with two cross-cutting objectives in mind:

Cross-Cutting Objective #1 – Enhance the emergency response capacities of local NGOs working coastal communities affected by the Tsunami.

Demonstrating growing capacity, 12 of 35 local partners were funded multiple times by Mercy Corps and another 11 are recommended for future funding. In total, Mercy Corps believes 65.7% of its local NGO partners are better equipped to handle future emergency responses.

Highlights

White Pigeon, Trincomalee – After training, account and report preparations improved noticeably. Communication method was outstanding during the project. They kept informing MC regarding each significant change that was made to the project. For example, the way they communicated to us requesting approval to utilize savings in the budget for unforeseen activities was well appreciated. – Sumitra, Mercy Corps Compliance Officer

Fahad Social Service Organization, Ampara – Developed good monitoring tools, including beneficiary documentation that helped with monitoring and evaluation of their poultry farming project. After distribution of materials, FSSO carefully monitored results to ensure that 70 beneficiary families were generating a living wage. Indirect stabilizing affects on the local meat market and a poultry business cycle involving vendors, suppliers of feed, veterinarians, etc. has also been tracked.

Cross-Cutting Objective #2: – Protect and support social and psychological needs of tsunami affected populations by fostering community continuity and social support during relief and recovery activities.

While all projects were carefully vetted for psychosocial impact on intended beneficiaries, over 20% of all Mercy Corps programming directly targeted support to processing grief, rebuilding trust and engaging in peaceful social activities. Psychosocial programming reached over 7,400 tsunami-affected Sri Lankans.

Highlights

Trincomalee District Gandhi Sevai Association & Viluthu, Centre for Human Resource Development – Three major training programs providing critical incident stress management training for 96 government officials, 350 teachers and 250 social workers. All programs were well-attended and a book called *Ahavili* has subsequently been published documenting the content of the programs for future reference.

Cricket Tournament, Trincomalee – In early July Mercy Corps hosted a two day district-wide cricket tournament attended by 6 men’s teams and 4 women’s high school teams. The event attracted crowds in the hundreds. In the conflict-ridden district sport is often the only chance for ethnically divided communities to come together. As testimony to the unifying power of cricket: even when the tournament was cut short due to an LTTE flare-up, Trincomalee residents insisted the final match be rescheduled. Mercy Corps was more than happy to comply. See section “E. Human Interest Story” for pictures and more information!

B. Fourth Quarter Projects/Outputs/Final Steps

At the end of September, Mercy Corps was granted a three month no cost extension until November 30th, 2005. The purpose of this extension was to allow for project completion; proper monitoring and evaluations; and final tranche delivery. The following chart lists all five projects finalized in the last quarter:

Table 1: Fourth Quarter Projects

Implementing NGO	Project Description	Main Outputs	Final Steps
Kinniya Vision	Community Infrastructure: Provide sanitation facilities, proper dwellings and a means for livelihoods for 95 families in Katchakodu-theevu.	20 New Toilets, Community Center, Salt Collection Sluice, Basic Housing Improvements and Health Training.	Project completed November 11, 2005.
Mercy Corps	Livelihoods: Repairing sewing machines damaged by the Tsunami in Trincomalee Town.	425 machines brought for repair, 76% fully repaired. 38% of all monitored beneficiaries have returned to work or expanded their business.	Project completed December 10, 2005.

Human Resource Development Society	Water/Sanitation: Build 75 permanent toilets for families rebuilding in Akkaraipattu.	70 new latrines finished to overall beneficiary satisfaction. 95% toilets in use and maintained regularly.	Ratify final tranche with partner. Withheld due to 5 incomplete toilets.
MANDRU - Institute for Alternative Development and Regional Cooperation	Community Infrastructure: Establish a plant nursery with the aim to repopulate a protective greenbelt along the Batticaloa coastline.	The nursery is complete, with water tank, pipeline, office and gravel road installed. 15 families are employed cultivating 6 kinds of trees: Casuarinas, Jak Fruit, Passion Fruit, Lime, Orange and Papaya.	Awaiting final financial report. Local partner has delayed office visit due to insecurity.
Mercy Corps	Community Infrastructure: 100 transitional shelters to be constructed in Komari.	Upland contractors successfully completed 100 shelters on time and with the aid of local apprentices. Thus, the project addressed both housing and labor shortages in the East as well as bridging gaps between ethnic groups with no previous cause to interact constructively.	Project completed October 15, 2005.

C. Overall Project Accomplishments

Objective #1 – Targeted provision of non-food items to affected families who still have urgent needs.

Within the first month of receiving the USAID/OFDA grant, Mercy Corps had funded three emergency distributions to over 6,600 needy recipients. By June, nearly 9,000 families had received non-food materials to replenish their household and school materials lost to the tsunami. Over 18,700 beneficiaries were students receiving school kits that – in addition to books, paper, and pens – included such items as uniforms, bicycles and even chairs depending on the needs of the school.

Objective #2 – Provide income generation opportunities through cash for work employment to support the reconstruction of vital community infrastructure and livelihoods support for those whose incomes were most negatively affected by the tsunami.

Initially, Mercy Corps utilized USAID/OFDA grant monies to employ nearly 1,300 villagers as they labored to clear the rubble and garbage left by the tsunami. In all, laborers in Ampara, Galle and Trincomalee districts racked up 28,959 person days for a total of US\$ 164,655 (including wage, lunch and equipment).

Table 2: Cash for Work Results

Cash-for-Work

Villages Affected	17 (pop. 39,156)
Main Road Cleared	15,848 m.
Sub Lanes Cleared	19,569 m.
Beach Cleared	7,186 m.
House Plots Rehabilitated	1,739
Schools Rehabilitated	12 (pop. 5,501)

Village Highlight: Jaya Nagar, Trincomalee
 After one month of intensive work, 262 laborers managed to clear 5.5 km of road and beach and rehabilitate 511 houses. Their efforts are paying off, to date 225 families (44% of original population) have returned to live in the village. Fishermen are using the beach area to fish and repair nets and in the evening adults and children frequently come to relax and play again by the shore.

In addition to cash for work projects listed in the table above, Mercy Corps' cash for work programs also rehabilitated 6 mosques, 4 temples, 2 playgrounds, 2 community centers, 2 health clinics, 1 hospital, 1 kovil, 1 government office, 1 cemetery, 1 train station and 1 camp.

Mercy Corps finished its last cash for work program early May at which point the agency decided to focus solely on more sustainable livelihood grants.¹ About 11,700 people have directly and indirectly benefited from a livelihood grant that might have provided skill training, revolving funds or start-up equipment.

Highlights

75% of all livelihood beneficiaries are involved in the fishing industry. Whether they be shrimpers, fishmongers, lagoon or deep sea fishermen - Mercy Corps' provided the necessary support for their return to work. Over 700 specialized nets, 150 canoes, and 160 fishmonger gear kits were distributed to carefully vetted beneficiaries with experience in the trade and no previous assistance. 21 engines were also repaired.

After the grant was completed, Mercy Corps monitored a percentage of beneficiaries for average income. Although income varies widely in the fishing industry depending on season and daily catch, our monitoring indicates income levels are fairly consistent pre and post-tsunami:

- **Fishermen (Boat Owners)** – 650 LKR/day
- **Fishermen** – 420 LKR/day, 14,300 LKR/month
- **Shrimpers/Lagoon Fishermen** – 200 LKR/day, 10,500 LKR/month
- **Fishmongers** – 3,889 LKR/month (part-time work)

Back to Sea – Manayaveli Sandycove Cooperation Society, Trincomalee

“We did not have the capital to repair our engines in time for the season. Mercy Corps understood our situation and brought help to us. Now we are back to work, we are daily fishing in the morning, and some evenings. We are now daily workers taking daily income. We can afford house and school pupas from this income. Now the only problem we face is rough seas, when we cannot go to sea. Only then do we take leave. Otherwise we are daily doing our work. Now our situation is good we are happy, we are thanking Mercy Corps.”

One exception is the project implemented by local partner, Social Development Foundation, in in Pulmoddai, Trincomalee. Here 43 canoes were distributed amongst 86 lagoon fishermen who had previously only been able to crew larger boats for a small wage. Now, for the first time, they are earning income independently and pocketing all their earnings. The following two stories help describe what the fishermen are doing with their newfound profit:

¹ Please see the third quarter report for more information.

Mr. S.M. Ismail – 43 years old, married with 4 children, 3 sons and one daughter. Ismail shares his canoe with Mr. A.L. Anees. Everyday they leave home at 18.00 hrs and return by 8.00 hrs. the next morning, 14 hours on average.

With his savings, Ismail has invested in a motorbike. Before he traveled by bicycle to sea shore, but now he takes the motorbike to save time. He is glad to spend more time at home.

He purchased the second-hand motorbike on credit, but was able to repay the loan within 7 days, after earning Rs.25,000/= for catching prawns (high season for prawn fishing is from November to February). His average daily income in November was Rs.5500/=, as contrasted to Rs.4500/= a month when he worked as a crewman before the tsunami.

Ismail is not finished investing, his next purchase will be a rice grinder, in order to expand his business during the off season.

Mr. Anifa – Married with 3 children. Anifa shares his canoe with Mr. K. Yoosub. His daily income is from Rs.100/= to Rs.300/=. Anifa first used his savings to pay off all debt and open a small grocery store which generates an additional Rs.200/= per day. Today he continues to save about Rs.200/= a day, of which he gives Rs.100/= alms to beggars.

Objective #3 – Emergency water and sanitation assistance to those affected by the tsunami.

Via 1,222 desalinated or reconstructed wells and 367 temporary and permanent latrines, Mercy Corps brought over 16,000 tsunami-affected Sri Lankans water and sanitation assistance. An additional seven safe hygienic practice trainings were provided to 458 participants. It is well known that Sri Lanka did not experience any major water-borne disease outbreaks post-tsunami, Mercy Corps is proud to have played a part.

Latrine monitoring results compiled by project officer observation and beneficiary questioning.

Table 3: Latrine monitoring results

Beneficiaries Surveyed	Latrine Rating			
	0 – Facility Abandoned	1 – Facility in Use, but Not Maintained	2 – Facility Maintained	4 – Latrine Maintained & Cleaned
93	16*	6	48	91
3.3%	9.9%	3.7%	29.8%	56.5%
Latrine Use				
Latrine has cleaning materials	Latrine has hand washing materials	How many people use the toilet (+children)	Who is in charge of latrine cleaning?	
58	44	407	Mother- 58	
22.8%	17.3%	Avg. 6/toilet	Father- 6	
			Daughter- 4	

D. Budgetary/Administrative Issues

As of November 30th, 2005, Mercy Corps had finished all major program implementation under the USAID/OFDA award number 386-G000-05-00037-00. Only one project had to be stopped

* These permanent toilets have all been built on cleared plots of previously occupied land. The hope is to encourage resettlement by providing sanitary facilities.

short due to lack of time; Human Resource Development Society completed 94% of their original 75 toilets to our satisfaction. We have agreed with the partner to amend the grant to accommodate these changes.

A final financial inventory will be compiled within the 90 day close-out period and submitted by March 2nd, 2006.

E. Human Interest Story

See next page.

Building Unity through Cricket

TRINCOMALEE – by Steven Dawson, Mercy Corps Assistant Project Officer

Trincomalee is one of the most ethnically mixed districts in Sri Lanka, with a population that can be divided roughly into thirds amongst Tamil, Sinhalese and Muslim groups and was fiercely disputed during the twenty year ethnic conflict, suffering high levels of violence and displacement. After the ceasefire, the different ethnic groups in Trincomalee showed an impressive ability to work together, but unfortunately, tensions rose again after the Tsunami. Hence, Mercy Corps Trincomalee has been exploring possibilities for bringing people to gather in a public area where they are able to participate in an enjoyable event, like a cricket tournament.

An inter-club leather ball tournament for men and a inter-school soft ball tournament for girls was organized. Ten teams participated in the club tournament, and six teams in the school tournaments. The tournament began on the 9th and 10th of July 2005.



An MVP from the winning Wells SC cricket team displays his medal at the award ceremony in Trincomalee.

All the teams lined up in their uniforms provided by Mercy Corps for the introduction ceremony. The tournament started on a happy note and was well attended. Large crowds thronged the grounds to support their teams. The teams responded with great play and competitiveness. The results of the preliminary rounds produced four teams for the two finals.

The Final Match held on the 30th of July 2005 was very impressive. The men's finals were played between Wells SC and Normans SC. Rajakeeya MV and Sri Sanmuha Hindu Ladies College dualed for the women's title. The finalists were Wells SC and Rajakeeya MV.

The Chief Guest for the Final was Gretchen Ansorge (Mercy Corps Regional Program Manger) and the Guest of Honor was Gaston Stanislaus (ASP Trincomalee). The organizers thanked the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honor profusely. The clubs, schools and players were thanked for their wonderful cooperation. Wonderful prizes were awarded to the winners.

The life of this tournament goes to Mr. John Sowinski of Mercy Corps with able support by Mr. A.M.A Basheer, president of Trincomalee Cricket Association and his energetic staff. Many thanks to all our sponsors: USAID/OFDA (donor), Oxfam GB (water), UNHCR & UNDP (tents), Zoa (poles), and Sri Lankan Red Cross (first aid).

*"Sports is a universal language that can bring people together,
no matter what their origin, background, religious beliefs, or economic status"*

Kofi Annan UN Secretary General